ANTONY JOHNSTON BEN TEMPLESMITH

DEAD SPACE™

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3 OF 6

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IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

DEAD SPACE™

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HALF THE COLONY'S WALKING 'ROUND LIKE IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD. CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS SHIT?
DETECTIVE, I'M A LIFELONG ATHEIST AND SKEPTIC. I KNOW THAT WHAT I SAW WAS A HALLUCINATION. BUT IT FELT SO REAL, SO...
IF I WERE A SPIRITUAL MAN, I'D BE ON MY KNEES PRAYING RIGHT NOW.
I JUST FIND IT INCREDIBLE A BUNCH OF BLUE COLLARS LIKE THIS CAN GET SO SWEPT UP OVER A ROCK. AND THAT LEAKED VIDLOG ISN'T EXACTLY HELPING.
A ROCK, A SCROLL, A CHALICE... WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
ANYWAY, THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU.
THE SECURE QUAD? YOU GOING TO SEE HARRIS AGAIN?
NO, CARTHUSIA FINALLY GAVE ME ACCESS TO NATALIA DESHYANOV. I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHY SHE GOT SO "SWEPT UP".

Vehicle Maintenance Bay
East Sector 1

SOME WONDER WHAT THE MARKER IS *FOR*. OTHERS, WHAT DOES IT DO? WHY IS IT HERE? WHAT DOES IT *MEAN?*

UNITOLOGY ALREADY TEACHES US THE TRUTH. AND THE TRUTH IS, THE MARKER IS *TALKING* TO US!

Brig cell 17
Secure quad, East sector 3

HELLO, NATALIA. I'M *DR. SCIARELLO,* THE *CMO.* HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.

AND YOU WILL, JUST AS SOON AS I CAN BE SURE YOU WON'T HURT YOURSELF.

HURT *OTHERS,* YOU MEAN. I KNOW WHAT YOU THINK. BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

THEN TELL ME, NATALIA. HELP ME UNDERSTAND.

STOP SAYING MY NAME!

YOU KNOW WHAT I *DREAM* ABOUT EVERY NIGHT, DOC? WHAT I SEE EVEN WHEN I *CAN'T* SLEEP?

WE HAVE TO LEAVE... PLEASE, IT'S NOT SAFE...
NATALIA, YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T LEAVE THE QUAD UNTIL YOU'RE WELL AGAIN.

THE PLANET, DUMBASS! WE ALL HAVE TO LEAVE THE PLANET!
AAAH! HELP!

THAT'S ENOUGH, DESHYANOV! GET OFF HIM!

WHAK
UNH!

GO ON... FINISH IT... PLEASE.
JUST KILL ME...

KILL ME NOW.

Outbound vehicle bay
North sector 2

ALL RIGHT, YOU ALL KNOW YOUR TASKS. GLENN, YOU'RE WITH ME. JACKSON, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE *TRAM SHUTTLE.*

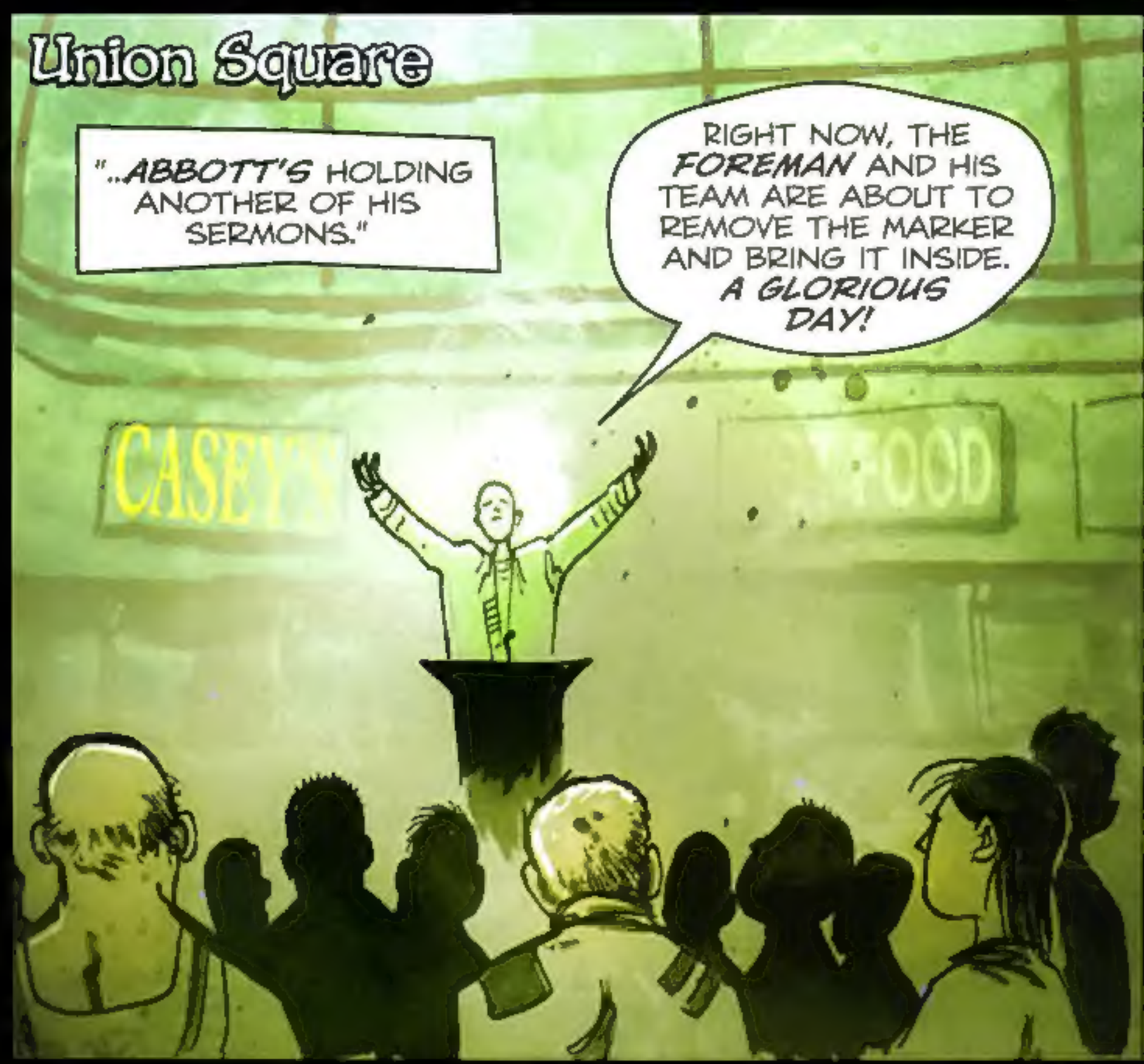
SEE YOU AT THE MARKER.

MOVE OUT!

BRAM, IT'S MARLA. WHERE ARE YOU?

NORTH SECTOR *2 OBBO POST.* JUST MAKING SURE THIS MARKER REMOVAL GOES SMOOTHLY.

WELL, THEN YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET DOWN TO UNION SQUARE...


Union Square
"..ABBOTT'S HOLDING ANOTHER OF HIS SERMONS."
RIGHT NOW, THE FOREMAN AND HIS TEAM ARE ABOUT TO REMOVE THE MARKER AND BRING IT INSIDE. A GLORIOUS DAY!
CASEY'S
FOOD

AND WE ALL KNOW WHAT IT CAN DO. WHAT AWAITS US.
BECAUSE IT'S TOLD US.

WE WON'T BE HERE. BUT WE'LL BE WAITING, PATIENTLY. WAITING FOR OUR CHANCE TO ASCEND, AND BECOME ONE WITH GOD.
THAT'S WHAT WE MUST DO NOW, TOO. WAIT TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD. IT'S COMING SOON.

CORTEZ! FOR THE LAST TIME, PLEASE, JUST GO HOME. ANYONE CAN SEE THIS GUY'S A WHACKJOB. "WAITING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD"? I MEAN, REALLY?

YES, BRAM, REALLY. YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
DAMN STRAIGHT I DON'T. I THOUGHT THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A RATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC RELIGION? WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT?

THIS IS SCIENCE. THE MARKER, THIS PLANET, OUR FATE... ALL OF IT. IT'S EVOLUTION, BRAM. FATE.
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE YOUR FATE.

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN? WHAT--
IT'S COMING! LISTEN CAREFULLY!

MARLA, WHAT'S THE STATUS ON THE MARKER PULL TEAM? THEY DONE YET?
THEY'RE DOING IT RIGHT NOW. JUST STARTED A TEN DOWN. FOUR... THREE...

HOLY SHIT. MARLA, I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO RIOT. THEY'VE ALL--

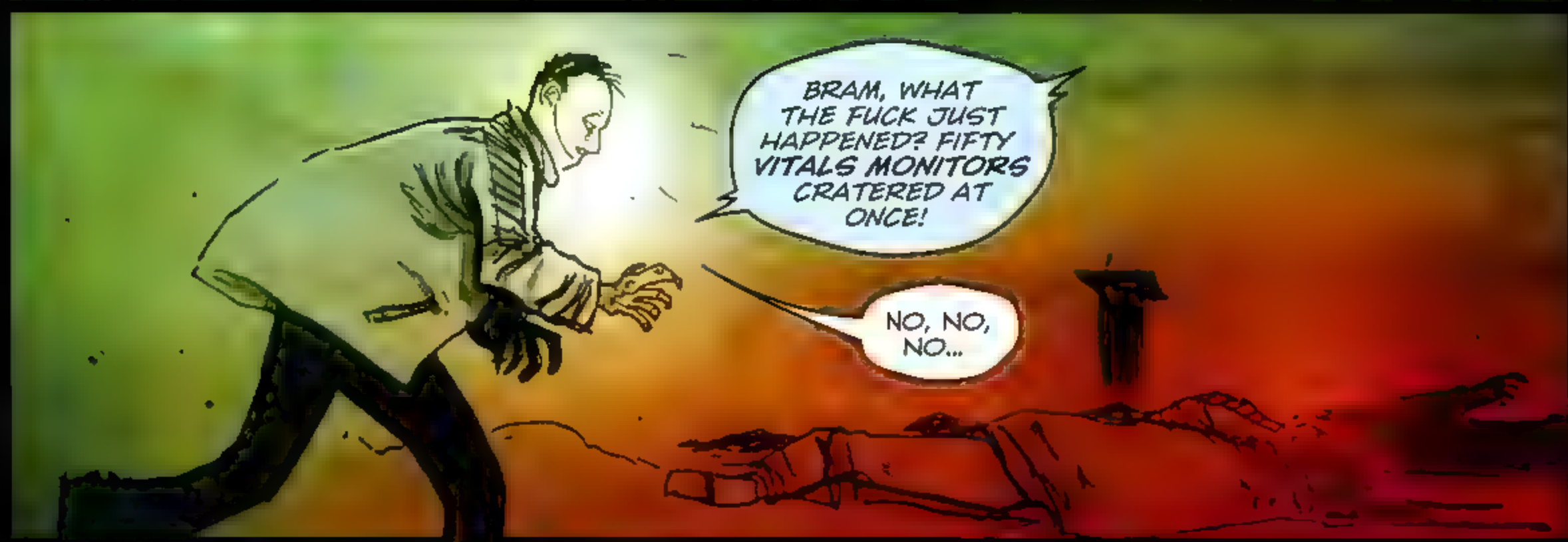
--NNNNNH!
MY... HEAD...!

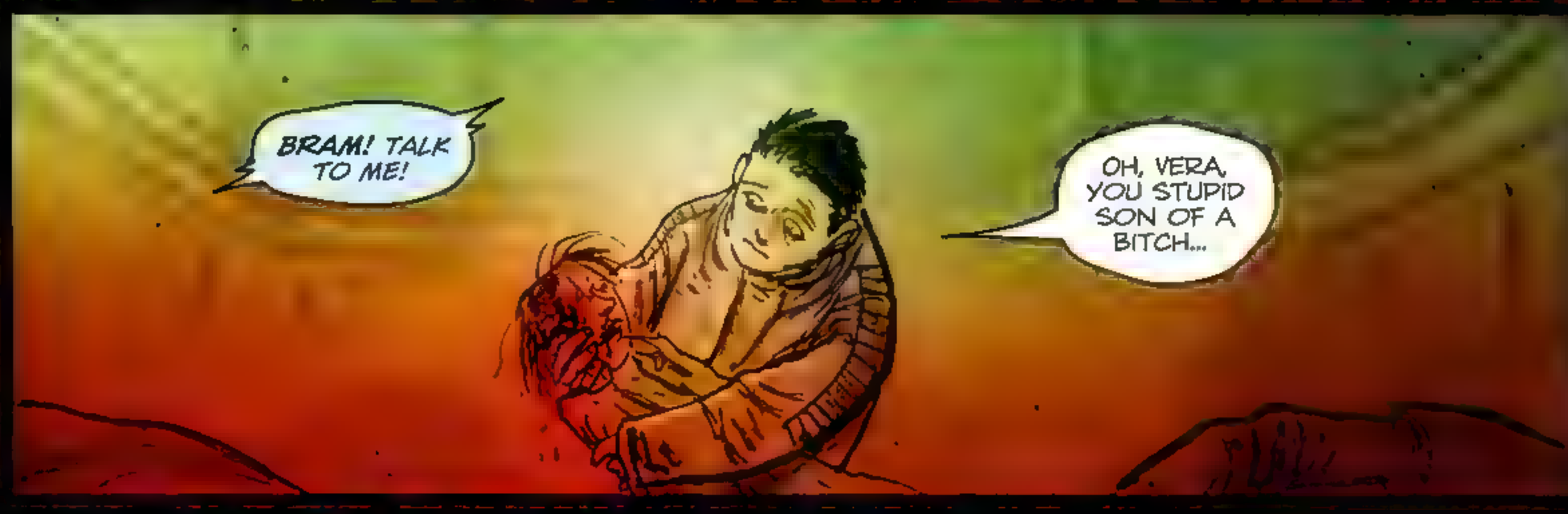
LISTEN... MY CHILDREN! HEAR... THE VOICE... OF GOD!
NOW... PREPARE YOURSELVES!

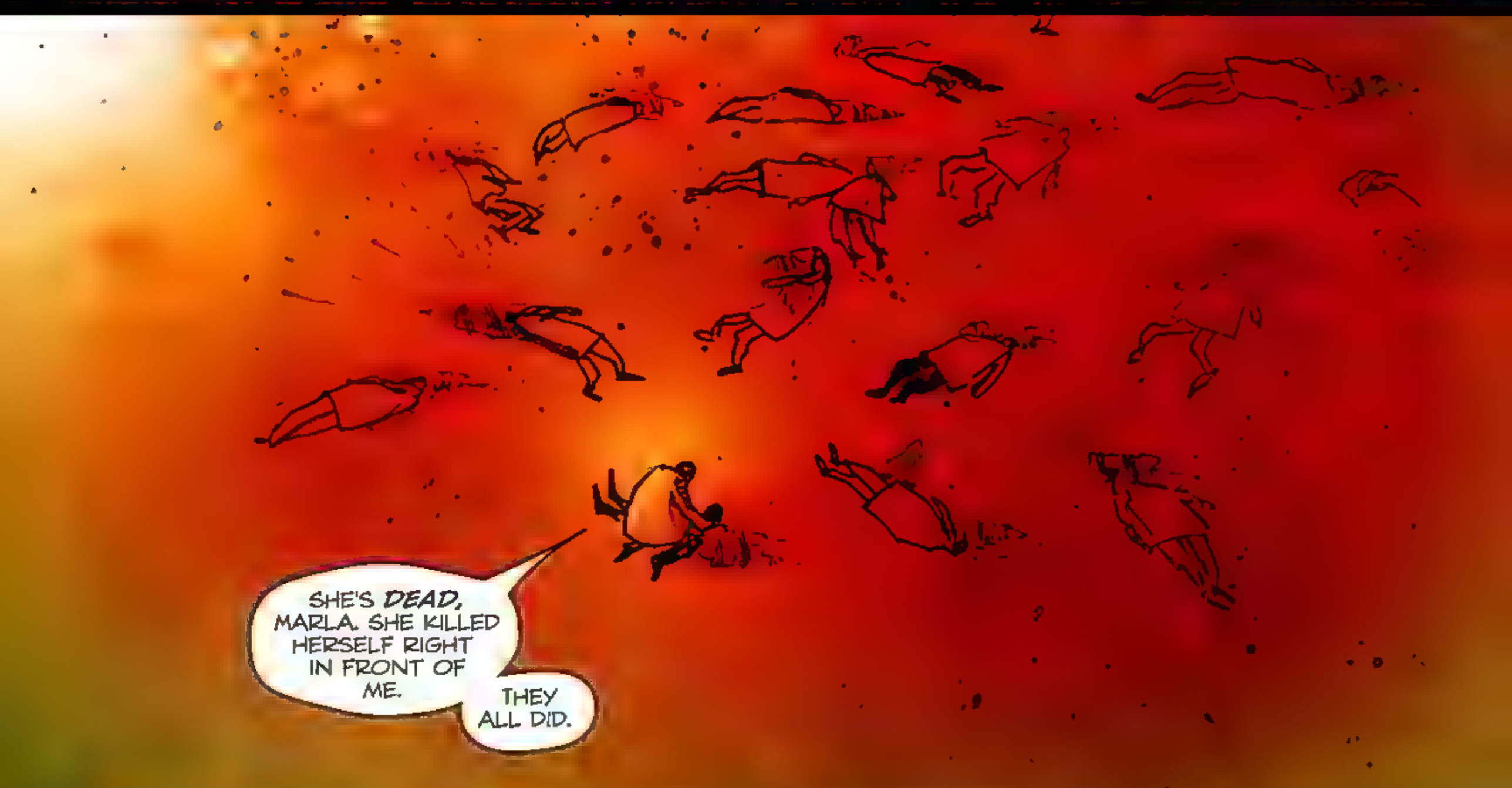
WHAT THE...? NO... VERA, NO!

DON'T WORRY... BRAM... SEE YOU... SOON...

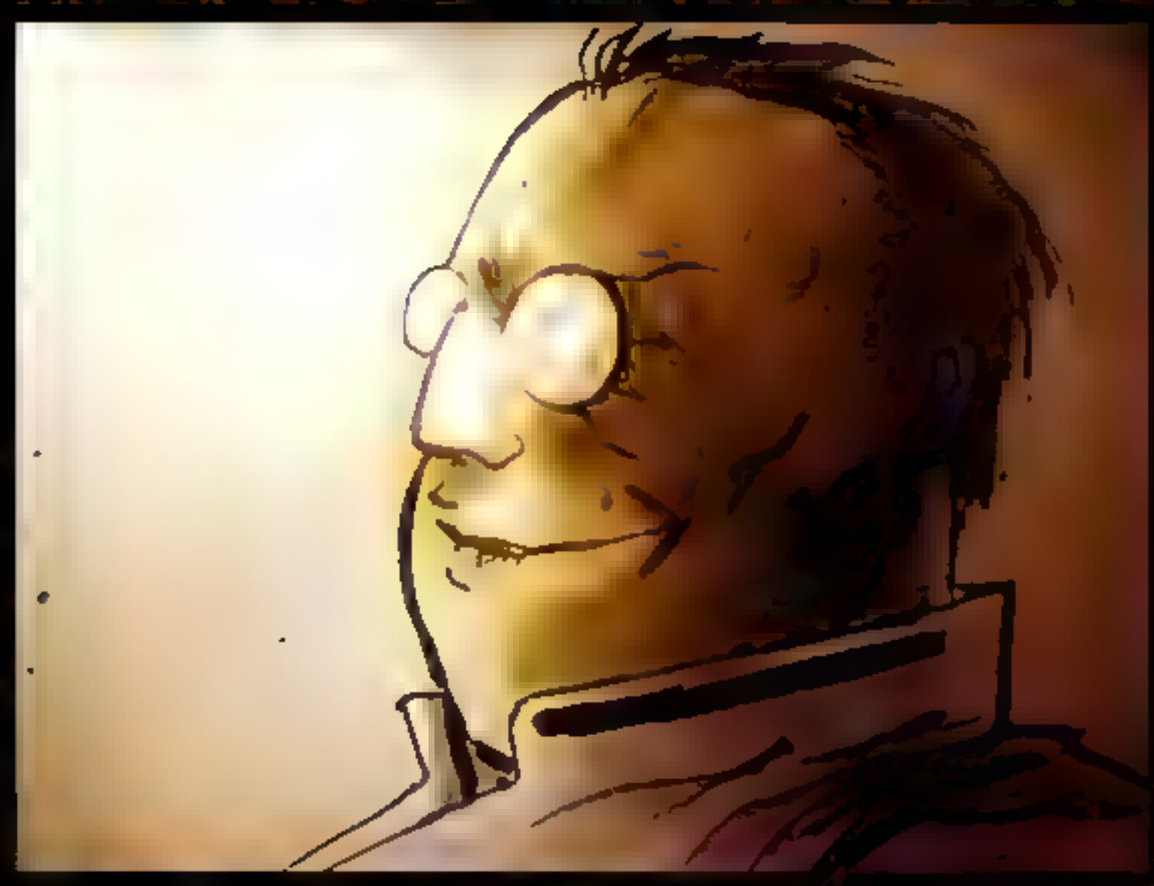
NO!

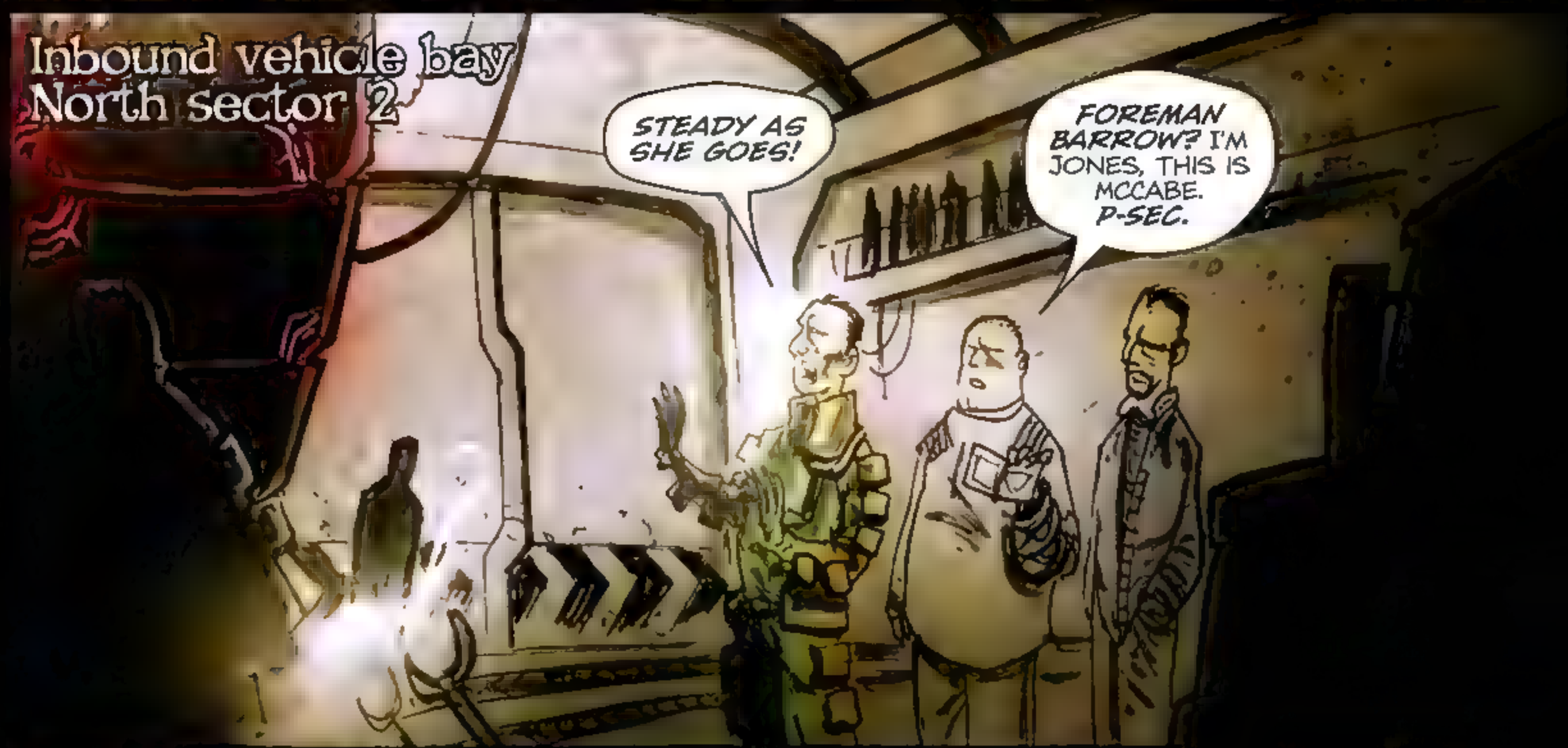

BRAM, WHAT THE FUCK JUST HAPPENED? FIFTY VITALS MONITORS CRATERED AT ONCE!
NO, NO, NO...

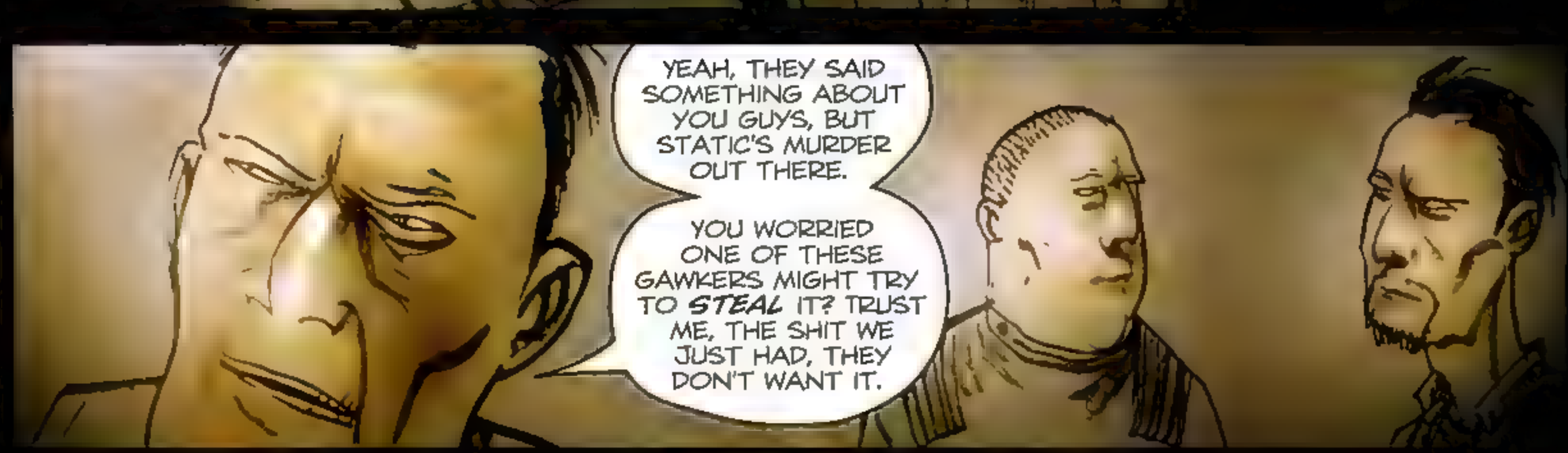

BRAM! TALK TO ME!
OH, VERA, YOU STUPID SON OF A BITCH...


SHE'S DEAD, MARLA. SHE KILLED HERSELF RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
THEY ALL DID.

Office of Hanford Carthusia




Inbound vehicle bay
North sector 2
STEADY AS SHE GOES!
FOREMAN BARROW? I'M JONES, THIS IS MCCABE. P-SEC.


YEAH, THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT YOU GUYS, BUT STATIC'S MURDER OUT THERE.
YOU WORRIED ONE OF THESE GAWKERS MIGHT TRY TO STEAL IT? TRUST ME, THE SHIT WE JUST HAD, THEY DON'T WANT IT.

WHAT KIND OF SHIT?
AS SOON AS WE REMOVED IT, EVERYONE STARTED FEELING ROUGH.
ONE OF MY GUYS EVEN COLLAPSED AND THREW UP IN HIS HELMET. SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT, HERE.
DIDN'T ANYONE TELL YOU ABOUT UNION SQUARE?
NO, WHAT ABOUT IT?

YOU AREN'T GONNA BELIEVE THIS SHIT...

WHERE ARE THE BODIES NOW?
APPARENTLY, WE HAVE A MORGUE. I ASSUME THEY'RE IN THERE.
"ASSUME" ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH. I WANT THOSE PEOPLE ON ICE. THEY MUST BE IN TOP CONDITION WHEN WE ARRIVE.
YOU MEAN APART FROM BEING DEAD?
DON'T GET CUTE, CARTHUSIA.
YOU REALLY THINK THE CONDITION MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE?
BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY. ALL RECUMBENTS WITH THE CHURCH ARE TREATED THE SAME WAY.
I KNOW. DON'T WORRY, CAPTAIN, YOU'LL GET YOUR CEMETERY.
I'D BETTER. OUR FUTURE IS RIDING ON THIS, MR. CARTHUSIA. DON'T LET US DOWN.
NOW...

Megavent 27
North sector 18

"...IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BEFORE WE SET OFF?"

HOW MUCH FURTHER? FEEL LIKE I WALKED TWO MILES ALREADY.

MAN, THIS IS NOTHING. THERE'S ANOTHER *HUNDRED MILES* OF THIS VENT ALONE.

AND NOBODY THOUGHT TO INSTALL A TROLLEY?

WE'RE *FORTY MILES* FROM THE HUB. YOU THINK ANYONE GIVES A SHIT WHETHER WE HAVE TO *WALK?*

ANYWAY, RELAX. ALMOST THERE.

BY THAT GRILLE.

IS THIS SOME KIND OF *JOKE?*

MAN, IF WE WANTED TO PULL A GAG, WE'D HAVE PUT IT WHERE SOMEONE WOULD SEE IT.

SO WHAT IS IT? IT *STINKS.*

WAS HOPING YOU COULD TELL *ME,* DETECTIVE. FREAKED THE FUCK OUT OF THE GUY WHO FOUND IT.

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE ON A VENT? IT'S NOT, LIKE, SOME KIND OF FUNGUS?

THIS WHOLE SECTION WAS CLEAN YESTERDAY. MY SPARKIE CAME DOWN THIS MORNING TO FIX A COMPRESSOR, AND THERE IT WAS.

WELL, NOT FOR LONG. I'M GONNA GET THIS DOWN TO-- HOLY SHIT!
IT MOVED! IT FUCKING MOVED!
BULLSHIT. WHAT, YOU THINK IT'S SOME KIND OF ANIMAL?
AIN'T LIKE NO ANIMAL I EVER--HEY, WHAT YOU DOING?
MIGHT WANT TO STEP BACK, THERE.
STOP! ARE YOU CRAZY? THESE VENTS FEED BACK INTO THE WHOLE COLONY!
FWOOOSH
EXACTLY.
YOU SEE ANY MORE OF THAT STUFF, YOU GIVE ME A CALL, OKAY?

	ASSAULT	MURDER
912	2	
913		
914	5	
915	8	
916	9	1
917	9	
918	10	
919	11	
920	13	48

HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS SINCE *19TH PRECINCT* BACK ON *EARTH.*

P-Sec HQ

YEAH, WELL, YOU WEREN'T ON *MARS* DURING THE RIOTS.

HEY, NEUMANN. THE MARKER PULL WENT OKAY, BUT BARROW'S TEAM ARE SICK AS DOGS.

GREAT, MORE STAFF OFF DUTY.

WAIT A MINUTE, WHERE'S THE REST OF *TODAY?*

WEIRD, HUH? NOTHING APART FROM THE *SUICIDES.* NOT EVEN AN ASSAULT.

WISH I FELT HAPPIER ABOUT THAT.

HEY, CORMAN. WHERE'S *MARLA?* I THOUGHT SHE WAS STILL ON SHIFT.

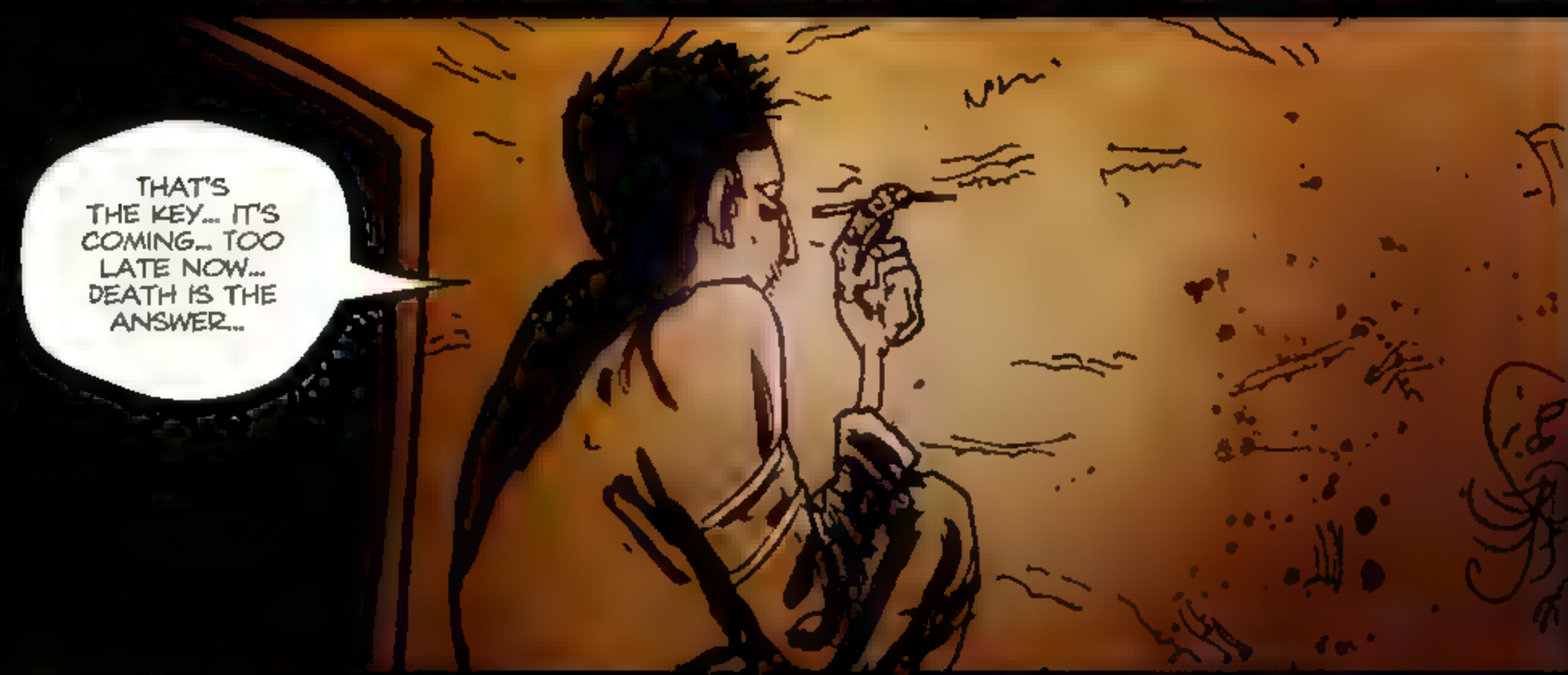
WENT HOME SICK. SAID SHE HAD A HEADACHE.

NO *WHAM-BRAM-THANK-YOU-MA'AM* TONIGHT, *HUH?*

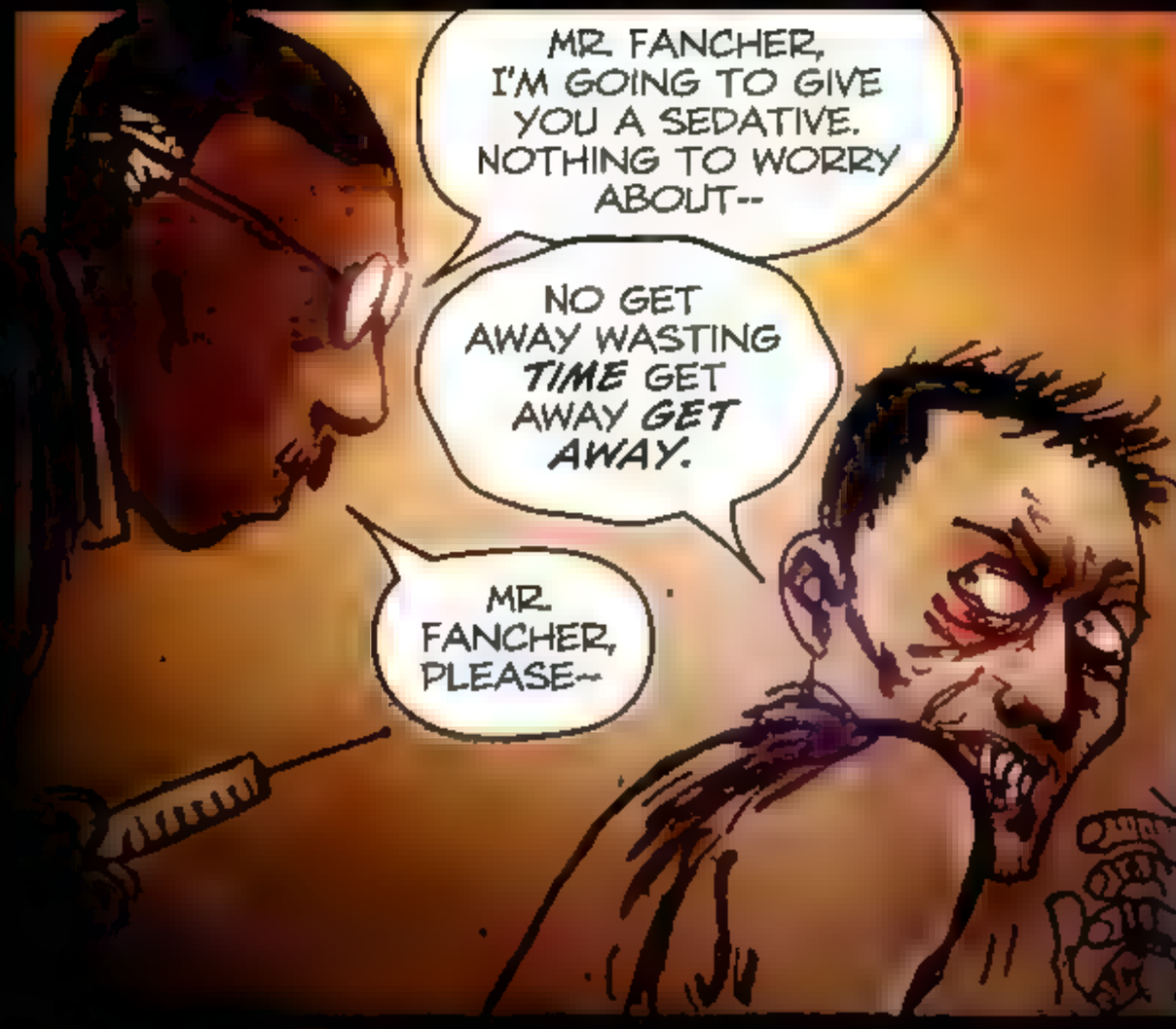
HILARIOUS. ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO CHECK ON HER. CALL ME IF IT GETS CRAZY AGAIN.

Secure bay 5
South sector 2
AT LAST...
ALTMAN BE PRAISED.
IS IT TRUE? DO YOU HOLD THE KEY TO LIFE... AND THE JOURNEY BEYOND DEATH?
I WISH NOW I'D STUDIED THE PRIME MARKER MORE...
...BUT THE SHIP WILL BE HERE SOON. THEY'LL FIGURE YOU OUT.
AND THEN WE CAN ALL BE SET FREE.

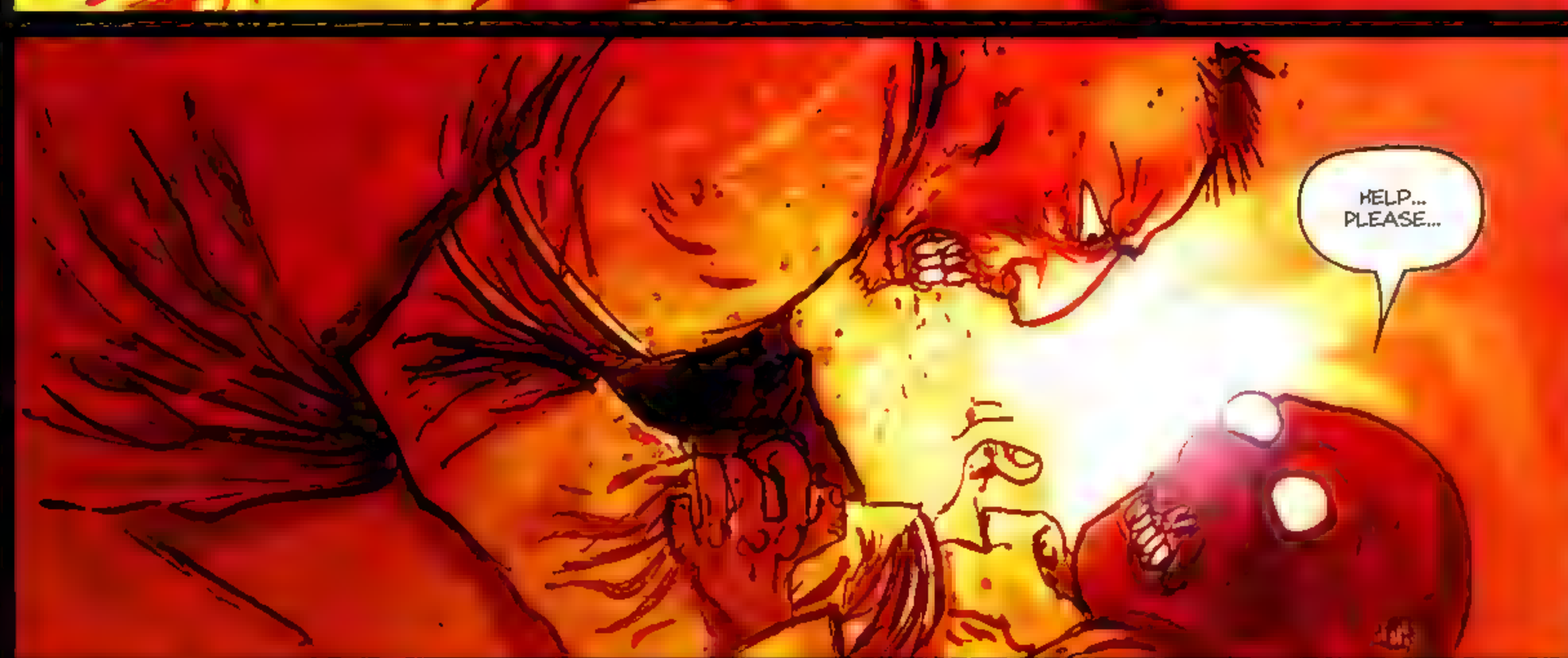
Apartment 26, row C-5, D block
MRS. FANCHER? I'M DR. SCIARELLO.
OH, THANK GOD... COME IN, DOC.
SORRY TO CALL YOU OUT, BUT I CAN'T GET HIM TO VISIT SURGERY. HE... HE WON'T EVEN LEAVE THE APARTMENT.
YOU SAID YOUR HUSBAND WAS ONE OF THE DIG TEAM THAT FOUND THE MARKER?
WE'RE BOTH SURVEYORS, AND HE WORKS ON JEN BARROW'S TEAM. HE JUST HASN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE THEY FOUND THAT GODDAMN THING.
AND THAT'S WHY YOU THINK HIS CONDITION IS CONNECTED?
WELL, THAT...
THE MARKER WILL SET US FREE
...AND THIS.
MY GOD.

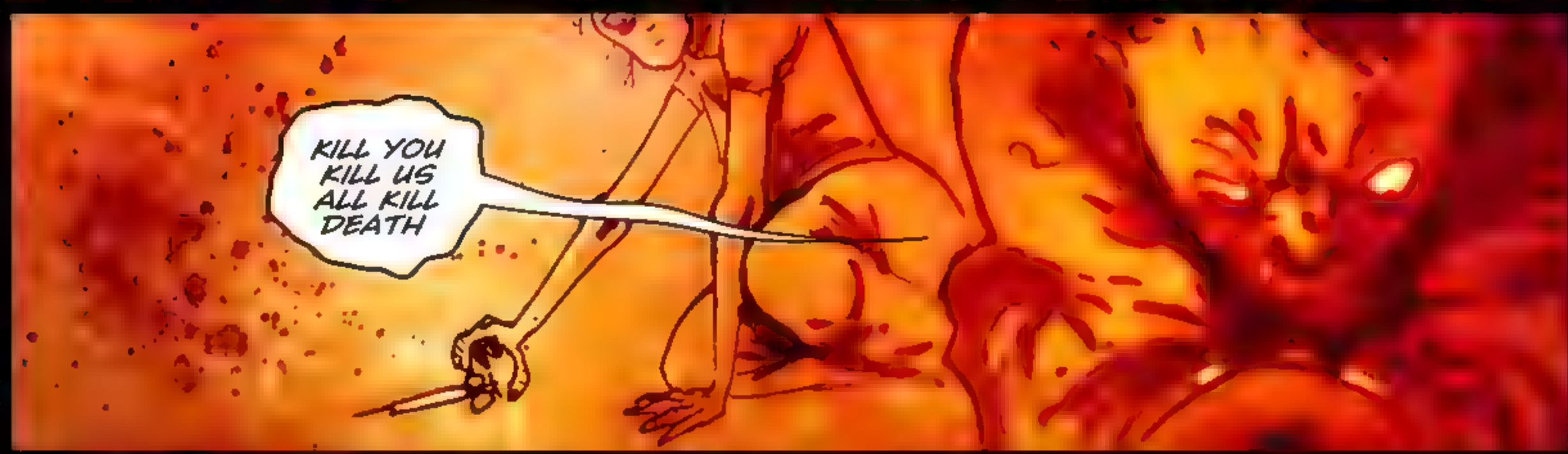

THAT'S THE KEY... IT'S COMING... TOO LATE NOW... DEATH IS THE ANSWER...

PETE, I BROUGHT THE *DOC*...
NO DOCTOR, NO USE, NO USE FOR THEM... DIE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE...

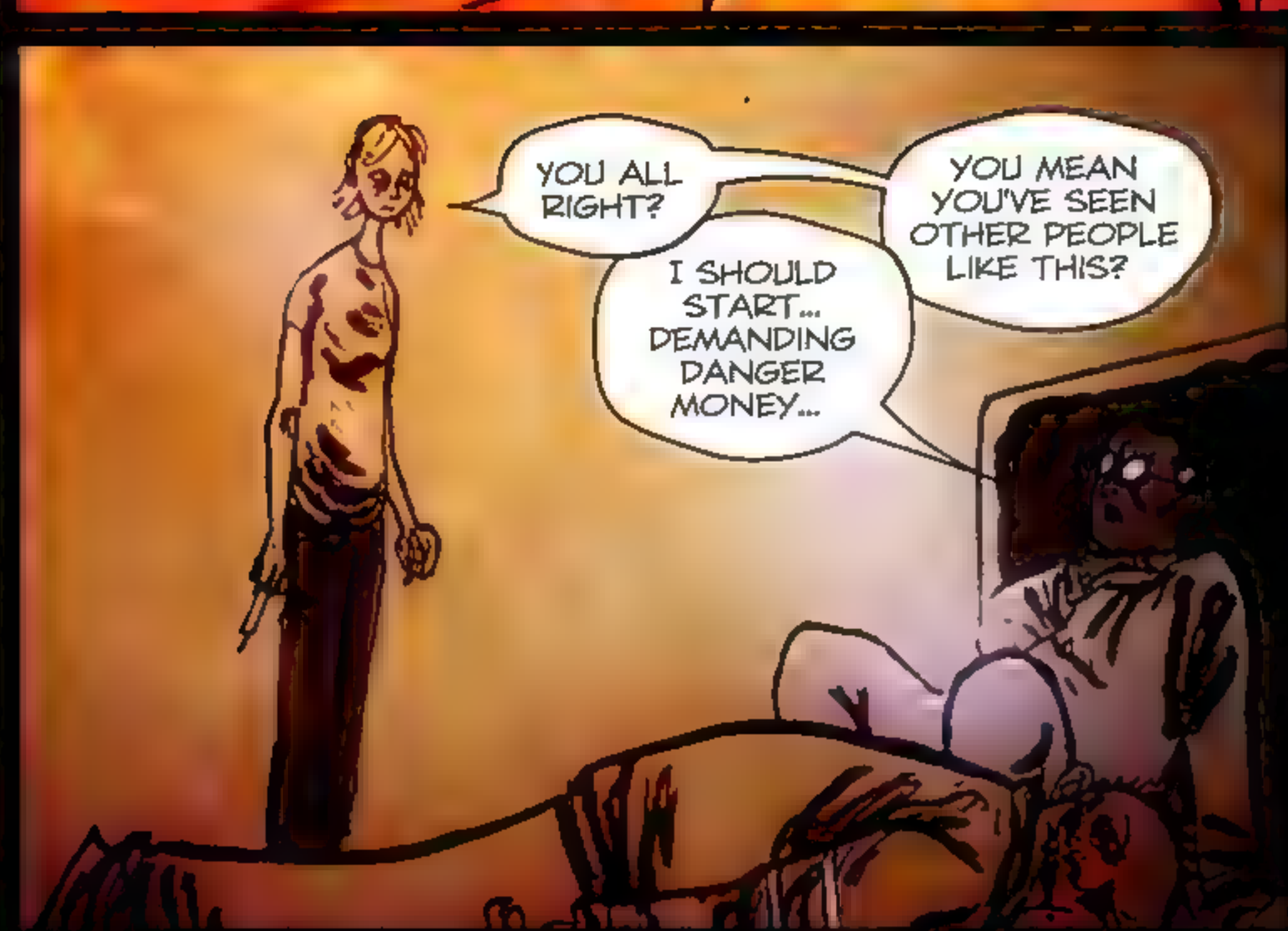

MR. FANCHER, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A SEDATIVE. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT--
NO GET AWAY WASTING *TIME* GET AWAY *GET AWAY.*
MR. FANCHER, PLEASE--

GET AWAY!
AAAH!


HELP... PLEASE...


KILL YOU KILL US ALL KILL DEATH

KILL ME KILL YOU KILL--
UNH


YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU MEAN YOU'VE SEEN OTHER PEOPLE LIKE THIS?
I SHOULD START... DEMANDING DANGER MONEY...

WELL, EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE AFFECTED DIFFERENTLY. BUT YES, THIS IS A GROWING PROBLEM.
AND, OF COURSE, THERE WAS THE *SUICIDE* IN UNION SQUARE.

OH GOD, YEAH, I HEARD ABOUT THAT. WHAT'S GOING ON, DOC? IS MY HUSBAND GOING TO BE LIKE THIS FOREVER, OR WHAT?

I WISH I KNEW, MRS. FANCHER. RIGHT NOW, SEEMS NOBODY CAN FIGURE IT OUT.

Apartment 23, row C-4, D block

I THINK I'M STARTING TO FIGURE THIS OUT.

AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE SICK?

DON'T START, BRAM. I COULDN'T... THE SUICIDE GOT ME THINKING, IS ALL. I COULDN'T CONCENTRATE.

SO YOU CAME HOME TO STARE AT *THAT* GODDAMN THING? ARE YOU NUTS?

WHAT I AM, SERGEANT, IS A *GENIUS*. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT BY NOW. AND I THINK I'M GETTING CLOSE TO A SOLUTION, HERE.

WILL IT HELP ME CONVINCE *CARTHUSIA* TO GET RID OF IT? BECAUSE THAT'S ALL I WANT. THE *INCIDENT BOARD* IS INSANE.

OVER A HUNDRED ASSAULTS SINCE WE FOUND THAT ROCK. THIRTEEN MURDERS. FIFTY-TWO SUICIDES, INCLUDING TODAY'S.

AND YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I SAW DOWN IN THE *MEGAVENTS*--

--YOU HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD I SAID, HAVE YOU?

MMM? SORRY, BRAM, I'M TRYING TO WORK THIS OUT...

DAMMIT, MARLA! IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE CARVINGS SAY! THAT THING IS EVIL, AND WE NEED TO--
"EVIL"? DID YOU REALLY JUST SAY THAT?

WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID THERE'S NO SUCH THING? THAT THERE'S JUST PEOPLE, AND THE DECISIONS THEY MAKE?
THAT THING ISN'T A PERSON!

NO, IT'S A CHUNK OF ROCK! AND IF I'M RIGHT ABOUT THOSE CARVINGS, IT COULD POINT TO ALIEN LIFE!
ALIENS! FOR GOD'S SAKE, BRAM, THINK ABOUT THAT FOR A MINUTE!

YOU SOUND LIKE VERA. I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M HEARING THIS!
AND I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE BEING SO EMOTIONAL! YOU, THE BIG, BAD COP!
PEOPLE ARE DYING, MARLA.
I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER REASON TO GET EMOTIONAL.

YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THIS.

I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, DETECTIVE. I WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE A ***MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR OPERATION*** JUST BECAUSE OF A FEW DEATHS.

THIS IS A SHEET OF EVERY DEATH SINCE COLONY START. WE HAD THREE IN THE PREVIOUS TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS, ALL WORKING ACCIDENTS.

SINCE WE FOUND THAT FUCKING ROCK, WE'VE HAD ***SIXTY-FIVE!***

FIFTY-TWO OF THESE ARE SUICIDES.

EXACTLY! OPEN YOUR EYES! IT'S LIKE THE FUCKING ***MARS CAPITA RIOTS*** AROUND HERE!

FOR GOD'S SAKE... JUST STOP THE PLANETCRACK BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

SORRY, DETECTIVE. IN A SENSE, IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE. EVEN IF I AGREED WITH YOU, I DON'T HAVE THE ***AUTHORITY.***

BULLSHIT. YOU'RE THE ***COLONY MANAGER!***

YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME. BEFORE YOU CAME CHARGING IN HERE, LOCAL COMMS RECEIVED A HAIL FROM THE ***ISHIMURA...***

"..CAPTAIN MATHIUS NOW HAS FULL JURISDICTION OVER THIS ENTIRE OPERATION."

TO BE CONTINUED...

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MINUTEMEN

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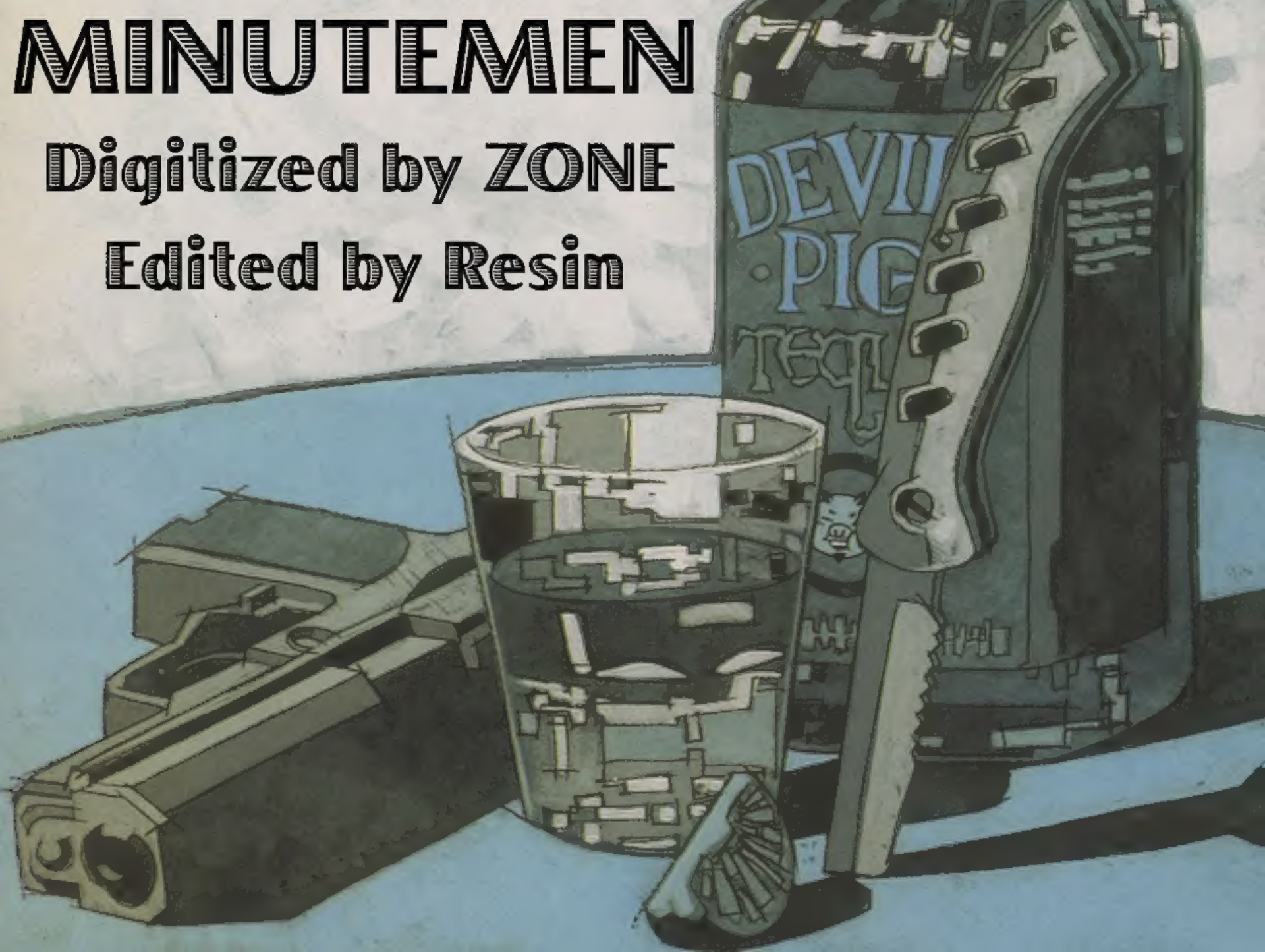
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